UNITED NATIONS

# Daily Highlights

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## TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General to inspect United Nations missions in Haiti, El Salvador and Guatemala, and pay official visit to Honduras; will preside over transfer of command from Multinational Force to UNMIH.

+ UNHCR to mark one-thousandth day of humanitarian airlift to Sarajevo on Wednesday.

+ Government of Guatemala and URNG, meeting in Mexico City, finalize agreement on identity and rights of indigenous peoples.

+ Administrative and Budgetary Committee is told UNMIH costs should not exceed $258 million for period 1 February to 31 December.

+ Haitian Government tells Human Rights Committee it will need funding and international assistance to deal with inherited problems.

+ FAO says Rwanda's farmers are harvesting first crops since civil war, but food situation remains precarious.

+ Yvonne Terlingen appointed as Coordinator of Victims and Witnesses Unit of International Criminal Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali will leave Headquarters on Thursday for a four-day visit to the Caribbean and Central America. He will inspect the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH), the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador, and the United Nations Mission for the Verification of Human Rights in Guatemala (MINUGUA), and will pay an official visit to Honduras.

Together with the Presidents of Haiti and the United States, the Secretary-General will preside over the ceremonies of the transfer of command from the Multinational Force to UNMIH. During his visit to Honduras, at the

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invitation of President Carlos Reina, he will thank the country for its role in Central America and its contributions to the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) and UNMIH.

In El Salvador, the Secretary-General will review progress achieved since 1991, when ONUSAL was first deployed. The Mission will complete its mandate on 30 April. In Guatemala, in conjunction with his visit to MINUGUA, he will meet with President De Leon Carpio, Nobel Laureate Rigoberta Menchu and leaders of the National Assembly of Civil Society.

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The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) will mark the one-thousandth day of its humanitarian airlift to Sarajevo tomorrow. The airlift -- the longest such operation in history -- began on 3 July 1992. It has since delivered more than 150,000 metric tons of life-saving food, medical supplies and other aid to more than 440,000 people in and around the Bosnian capital.

"Despite the success of this air bridge in keeping people alive, there is nothing UNHCR -- and the residents of Sarajevo -- would like better than to see the Sarajevo airlift come to a final, peaceful end," High Commissioner Sadako Ogata said. "The fact that this operation has had to continue for 1,000 days is nothing to celebrate. But we certainly must pay tribute to the hundreds of brave fliers and ground and support staff who have kept this vital lifeline open. They have saved countless lives."

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The Government of Guatemala and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca (URNG), meeting in Mexico City, have finalized an agreement on "identity and rights of indigenous peoples". According to the United Nations moderator of the talks between the parties, the agreement will be signed at a formal meeting in the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 31 March.

On the same date, a delegation of the Assembly of Civil Society will submit to the parties the consensus document on the next issue for negotiation, entitled "Socio-economic aspects and agrarian situation".

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The costs for the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH) for the period 1 February to 31 December should not exceed $258 million, the Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary) was told today. The Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), C.S.M. Mselle, said that amount would include some $152 million gross for the period from 1 February to 31 July, and $106 million for 1 August to 31 December.

Yesterday, the Fifth Committee said that an additional appropriation of $9.4 million would be required should the General Assembly renew the mandate of the United Nations Human Rights Verification Mission in Guatemala (MINUGUA)

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for another six months from 1 April. An additional appropriation of $769,000 would be required for staff assessment, to be offset by the same amount under the income section.

Furthermore, should the Assembly extend MINUGUA's mandate beyond 30 September, the Secretary-General should be authorized to commit up to $4.7 million under section 4 (peace-keeping operations and special missions) of the 1994-1995 programme budget for activities in the period 1 October to 31 December.

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The Haitian Government will need funding and international assistance if it is to deal with the tremendous problems it has inherited, Carole Denerville, Haiti's Secretary of State for Justice told the Human Rights Committee yesterday. "Things must change in the country", she said, as the Committee concluded its consideration of Haiti's special report on its compliance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

She called particular attention to the lack of security in Haiti. Disarmament had not been realized, and funding was needed for a good, effective police force. There was also concern about the climate within which the forthcoming elections would be held.

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Rwandese farmers are harvesting their first food crops since their country was devastated by a genocidal civil war last year, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). However, the food situation remains precarious, with cereal-equivalent production down 40 per cent from previous years. A joint FAO/World Food Programme (WFP) assessment mission has estimated Rwanda's food aid requirements for the first six months of 1995 at 150,000 tons of cereals and pulses.

The Government of Rwanda has begun to rebuild the country's agricultural infrastructure with assistance from the FAO and logistical support from 25 other United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations. Full rehabilitation of Rwanda's agriculture, forests, fisheries and livestock will take years and will be expensive. The FAO has appealed for more than $18.5 million to keep the recovery on course, but has so far only received pledges totaling $11.4 million.

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The Registrar of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia today announced the appointment of Yvonne Terlingen as Coordinator of the Victims and Witnesses Unit. Prior to her new position, Mrs. Terlingen served as Researcher for South-Asia in the London-based International Secretariat of Amnesty International.

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The Victims and Witnesses Unit will coordinate the provision of care, protection and support to victims and witnesses heard by the Tribunal. It will seek to ensure that they can testify with dignity, and in conditions of safety and security. The Unit will have a staff of four, and will work for witnesses for the prosecution as well as for the defence.

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